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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit herewith a letter by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 12 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of my Government, I would like to state the position of Croatia concerning the unimpeded construction of the Maslenica bridge and the undisturbed flow of traffic over it, which was provided for in the agreement of 15-16 July 1993, providing for the withdrawal of Croatian armed forces from the area of Maslenica, Zemunik and Peruca as soon as the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) takes effective control over these areas.

The signature of the Croatian Government resulted from a bona fide approach that includes participation of the local Serbs in the negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of all disputes within the political framework determined by Security Council resolutions 802 (1993), 815 (1993) and 847 (1993). It was the understanding of the Croatian delegation that, in addition to the 15-16 July 1993 agreement, an additional agreement would be signed on a comprehensive cease-fire affecting all the lines of confrontation. Yet, at the decisive moment, the delegation of local Serbs from Knin decided not to sign the text that had been preliminarily agreed upon, until the Croatian side had implemented the 15-16 July 1993 agreement.

The pressure exerted in that way by the local Serbs from Knin was not acceptable to our delegation, which insisted that the signing of the cease-fire agreement, as called for in paragraph 5 of the 15-16 July 1993 agreement, is a prerequisite for any unilateral and temporary withdrawal of Croatian armed forces from any part of the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

After the attacks of the Serbian insurgents on the Maslenica bridge, the destruction of one part of the bridge and the continuing shelling that prevents the repair of this solely civilian object, my Government is compelled to consider the 15-16 July 1993 agreement void, and to request the immediate and unconditional implementation of the measures that were proposed in the reports of the Secretary-General and their annexes (S/23280, S/23592, S/23513 and S/23353) and in the stipulations contained in Security Council resolutions 724 (1991), 740 (1992), 752 (1992), 762 (1992), 769 (1992), 802 (1993), 815 (1993) and 847 (1993).

The measures which are foreseen in the above-mentioned reports and resolutions include not only taking control of heavy weapons, but also the disbanding and demobilization of all paramilitary, irregular and volunteer units in the United Nations protected areas, as well as the banning of the wearing of uniforms or carrying of weapons by the personnel from these units. Unfortunately, the present situation is in disturbing contrast to these provisions and attacks by local Serbs on Croatian civilian targets are continuing.

The Government of Croatia is willing to continue its dialogue and to promote confidence-building measures meant to demonstrate its desire to proceed with the reintegration of the United Nations protected areas in a peaceful manner. However, it is difficult to do this as long as Serbian paramilitary

forces continue to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia. In this context, I have to stress that the decision by the "Government" of the "Republic of Serbian Krajina", communicated to the diplomatic and consular missions in Belgrade, that it "will negotiate with the Republic of Croatia on an equal State-entity basis", is insulting and totally unacceptable to the Republic of Croatia. The United Nations protected areas are an integral part of the territory of Croatia as emphasized in Security Council resolutions 815 (1993) and 847 (1993), and we consider that these negotiations have to be an entirely internal matter of the Republic of Croatia, in which UNPROFOR and the officials of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia are only unbiased mediators.

In our view, the reports of UNPROFOR regarding the situation in Croatia have become increasingly slanted in recent weeks, often disregarding information that would describe the hostile actions by the Serbian paramilitary units. While supporting the activities of peace-keeping forces on our territory until the expiration of the present mandate, we strongly believe that the members of the Security Council and the international community as a whole are entitled to have objective and unbiased information about the situation on the ground. We would like to see UNPROFOR finally acting in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially those that emphasize the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia over its entire internationally recognized territory.

We call once again upon the international community to exert pressure on the Serbian insurgents in the Republic of Croatia to obey the decisions of the Security Council which are stated in numerous resolutions, or to face the necessary consequences. It is the firm belief of my Government that the relevant Security Council decisions contain all the provisions for the restoration of a just peace in my country. My Government is committed to fulfilling all its obligations, but we cannot agree with anything less than full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

I would request your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ
Minister for Foreign Affairs